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Message Text

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70
ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 TRSE-00 COME-00 AID-05

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DRAFTED BY EB/CBA/OSB:JLNESVIG:CEK
APPROVED BY EB/CBA:JWBILLER
E:RPOATS (SUBS)
TREAS:LBOWDEN
COMM:PHALE
EB/CBA/OSB:ADBRAMANTE
AID:RRUSSEL (PHONE)
NEA/ARP:FDI-KMAN
NEA:SSOBER (SUBS)
S/S:JPMOFFAT
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
DOD
---------- 037615
P 032121Z JUN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USSAEC, SA, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-SAUDI JOINT COMMISSION - U.S. PRIVATE
SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

REF: JIDDA 3426

1. WITH NEW 5 YEAR PLAN READY TO BE ANNOUNCED, WE BELIEVE
TIMING GOOD FOR U.S. TO INVESTIGATE HOW U.S.-SAUDI JOINT
COMMISSION CAN BEST INVOLVE U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR IN

SAUDI DEVELOPMENT. SECTORS WHICH APPEAR PROMISING TO U.S.
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INCLUDE HOUSING, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND PORT DEVELOPMENT.

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2. SINCE SAG GIVING SPECIAL PRIORITY TO HOUSING, WE PROPOSE PURSUING ABA AL KHAIL'S INTEREST IN JOINT COMMISSION INVOLVEMENT IN SAG HOUSING PROGRAM EXPRESSED IN FEBRUARY JC MEETING IN WASHINGTON. TELECOMMUNICATIONS BEING DEALT WITH IN SEPTEL. WE AGREE THAT IMPROVED PORTS ESSENTIAL TO RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH (REFTEL), AND WILL PROPOSE IN SEPTEL SENDING TECHNICAL TEAM TO INVESTIGATE PORT DEVELOPMENT.

3. WITH U.S. HOUSING INDUSTRY IN DEPRESSED STATE, EXCESS MANPOWER AND OTHER RESOURCES EXIST TO ASSIST SAUDIS IN

THEIR AMBITIOUS PLANS. THE PROBLEM WILL BE IN EFFECTIVELY MOBILIZING WHAT HAS BEEN A LARGELY INSULAR, FRAGMENTED INDUSTRY. WE BELIEVE THE JOINT COMMISSION CAN POTENTIALLY ACCOMPLISH THIS.

4. IF YOU BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND SMALL TEAM TO SAUDI ARABIA TO EXPLORE WITH EMBASSY AND SAG LATTER'S RECEPTIVITY TO SOME FORM OF SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP UNDER JOINT COMMISSION AUSPICES AS BASIS FOR MAJOR HOUSING INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT. TEAM WOULD EXPECT DISCUSS U.S. INDUSTRY CAPABILITIES FOR RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF SAUDI PROGRAM AND EXPLAIN FACTORS ACCOUNTING FOR PRESENT LIMITED INDUSTRY INTEREST. PROPOSED TEAM WOULD CONSIST OF JOHN NESVIG, STATE, AND COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVE. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD PLAN ON INVITING REPRESENTATIVE OF AID OFFICE OF HOUSING, WHICH PRESENTLY CONDUCTING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR KUWAIT NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY. AID REPRESENTATIVE WOULD EXPLORE WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HOUSING POSSIBLE AREAS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. WE PREPARED ALSO, DEPENDING ON EMBASSY VIEWS, TO INVITE REPRESENTATIVE OF U.S. HOUSING CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. IN ANY CASE, TEAM NOW CONTACTING WIDE RANGE OF HOUSING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO DETERMINE POSSIBLE AREAS OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT.

5. TEAM WOULD OF COURSE CONCERT FULLY WITH CORPS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENGINEERS BEFORE DEPARTURE ABOUT PROSPECTIVE CORPS HOUSING PROGRAMS IN SAUDI ARABIA.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS ON CONCEPT AND APPROPRIATENESS OF SECTORS INDICATED. REQUEST EMBASSY APPROACH SAG RE THEIR RECEPTIVITY TO OVERALL CONCEPT AND PROPOSED MISSION. IF REACTION OF EMBASSY AND SAG FAVORABLE, WE WOULD LIKE TRIP TO TAKE PLACE IN JUNE.

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TEAM COULD ARRIVE AS EARLY AS JUNE 13. TIMING WOULD DEPEND, HOWEVER, ON AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATE SAG OFFICIALS. TEAM WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON PROPOSAL AND SUGGESTIONS ON TIMING. INGERSOLL

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